

REMARKS

Applicant has added new Claims 11 and 12. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Therefore, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Japanese 10278124, stating that Japanese'124 discloses each and every element of the resin gear in Claim 1.

In reply thereto, Applicant has carefully reviewed Sakamaki, and respectfully submits that while it may relate to a resin gear, Sakamaki merely shows diametrical ribs that are provided in a radial direction which radiate from the center. Applicant respectfully submits that Sakamaki does not disclose an essential feature of Applicant's invention which includes diametrical ribs which are formed radially and a cross brace.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Japanese'124 (Sakamaki) does not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed, and that the Claim 1 is not anticipated thereby.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Fenelon, stating that Fenelon discloses each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed by Claim 1.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Fenelon, and respectfully submits that Fenelon merely discloses a resin gear which includes diametrical ribs which are provided in a radial direction and radiate from the center. Applicant respectfully submits that Fenelon does not show an essential feature of Applicant's invention as claimed by Claim 1 that includes diametrical ribs formed radially and a cross brace.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Fenelon does not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention and that Claim 1 is not anticipated thereby.

The Examiner has further rejected the Claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Park, stating that Park discloses each and every element of Applicant's invention.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Park, and respectfully submits that Park merely discloses helical arms 153b that function as an elastic mechanism for absorbing impact or force.

These arms shown in Park are merely inclined with respect to the radial direction. In contrast thereto, Applicant respectfully submits that the structure of Applicant's invention as claimed by Claims 3 and 9 has a feature that the diametrical ribs are comprised of a first rib portion and a second portion that extend obliquely in opposite directions. Applicant respectfully submits that Park does not disclose this feature.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims 3 and 9 are not anticipated by Park.

The Examiner has rejected the Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Japanese'124 (Sakamaki) in view of Karakama, et al., stating that Sakamaki shows a gear made of a resin with a toothed portion 3, a shaft supporting section 2, a thin plate-shaped web 4 with a first and second circumferential rib formed concentrically thereon with the web having diametrical ribs formed thereon connecting the toothed portion to the shaft-supporting portion via the circumferential ribs, but does not disclose that the resin gear would be utilized in an image forming apparatus where a plurality of gears are used; Karakama, et al. shows image forming apparatus and the plurality of gears which are used to aid in the forming of an image; and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sakamaki in view of the teachings of Karakama, et al. in order to utilize the plastic or resin gears in an image forming apparatus.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Sakamaki and Applicant's invention. In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Karakama, et al., and respectfully submits that it merely shows an image formation device and it does not show all the gear structure which Applicant's invention relates to.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Sakamaki and Karakama, et al. is not Applicant's invention and the combination thereon would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 7 is not obvious over Sakamaki in view of Karakama, et al.

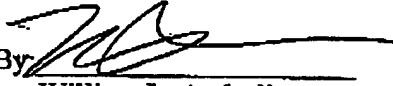
In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the newly added Claims 11 and 12 would not be anticipated nor obvious over the art cited taking singly or in combination.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered, favorably considered, and the case passed to issue.

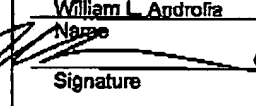
Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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